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## SÈVRES PATE TENDRE PORCELAIN

A recent discovery among the unlabelled examples of porcelain in this Museum is a small rectangular cologne bottle of old Sèvres frit paste porcelain, which is a beautiful example of early paste and glaze. In a ground work of underglaze turquoise blue is, on each of the four sides, a reserved panel of white, in which floral and figure designs are exquisitely painted. The subjects are surrounded by rococo border designs in raised coin gold. On the front is a finely executed miniature of Marie Antoinette in a frame supported by two cupids. On the reverse is the monogram of the French queen beautifully painted in minute flowers, while at the two sides are trophies and ornaments in delicate tints. The paste is of that rich creamy-white tint so characteristic of the early frit porcelains of France. On the base is the mark corresponding to the year 1779.



OLD SÈVRES COLOGNE BOTTLE

Almost every American tourist who visits Paris brings home examples of so-called Sèvres porcelain, in the forms of plates and other pieces of table ware, decorated with blue borders and gold tracery monograms of Louis Philippe or Napoleon I. and designs of flowers and amorini in colors. It is known that fully ninety-nine per cent. of such pieces brought to this country are spurious, either throughout, or, as the marks will indicate, have been painted after the ware left the factory.\* A comparison of these pieces with this beautiful example in the Museum collection will at once reveal the difference in quality and tone of color, the blue ground in the counterfeit pieces being exceedingly raw, crude, filled with dark specks and painted over the glaze. A large number of such specimens, given to the museum at various times, are now stored away, but some of these may later be arranged in cases by themselves as an object lesson to the public for the detection of spurious Sèvres pieces.

\* The enormous extent of this illicit traffic may be appreciated when it is stated in a recent issue of a Paris newspaper that the sale of spurious Sèvres porcelain brings the counterfeiters sixteen millions of francs each year and yields the retail dealers in Europe and America about forty-eight millions of francs, or \$9,600,000.